

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 MC-02 IO-10

AF-06 EB-07 /097 W

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P R 141717Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1083

INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1102

LISBON FOR ALAN LUKENS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJECT: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. FEB 14 EDITION OF MORNING DAILY "YA" HEADLINED ARTICLE
FILED FROM NEW YORK, "NORTH AMERICA WILL SELL TO SPAIN 24
NEW PHANTOM AIRCRAFT". TEXT OF ARTICLE MADE
SEVERAL POINTS:

A. NEW U.S. LAW REQUIRES CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION
OF SUCH PURCHASES, AND CONGRESS HAS 20 DAYS TO DISAPPROVE
SALE.

B. CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES INDICATE INTENTION TO SELL
AIRCRAFT WAS COMMUNICATED TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE BY AMB MCCLOSKEY.

C. AIRCRAFT WILL BE 24 F-4E MODELS OF WHICH 6 WILL
BE FOR RECONNAISSANCE. TOTAL COST INCLUDING SPARES PARTS
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ESTIMATED AT \$200 MILLION.

2. ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT INFO RELEASED ON SALE HAPPENS AT ESPECIALLY CRITICAL MOMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MADRID. AUTHOR OF ARTICLE, CORRESPONDENT GUSTAVO VALVERDE, STATES HE WAS MADE AWARE UNOFFICIALLY THAT U.S. HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES IN COURSE OF PAST TWO WEEKS REGARDING "TROOP AND NAVAL FORCE MOVEMENTS IN AREA OF CEUTA AND MELILLA. ALTHOUGH STATE DEPT INSISTS THAT U.S. PURSUING POLICY OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN DISPUTE BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO, IT IS KNOWN INDIRECTLY THAT WASHINGTON HAS EXERCISED SOME TYPE OF PRESSURE ON MADRID AND RABAT WITH OBJECTIVE OF LIMITING ARMED FORCES MOVEMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THE PRESSURE WAS EXERTED PREVIOUSLY THIS PAST SUMMER AGAINST MOROCCO AND IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD THE SALE OF DIVERSE AMERICAN WAR MATERIAL TO RABAT WAS ANNOUNCED. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CONFIRMED THAT ANY RELATION EXISTS BETWEEN THE LATEST AMERICAN PRESSURES AND THE SALE OF 24 NEW AIRCRAFT TO SPAIN, IT IS SIGNIFICANT IN EYES OF INFORMED PERSONS THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SALE IS BEING MADE AT THIS TIME."

3. COMMENT: AS DEPT AWARE FROM USDAO REPORT IR 6 889 0035 75, THERE WAS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SPANISH INTENDED TO PURCHASE THE 24 F-E'S WHICH HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF A LETTER OF OFFER ALREADY EXPIRED LAST DECEMBER 31. HOWEVER, WE ARE INFORMED BY JUSMG/MAAG, AND AIRATT CONFIRMS, THAT THERE IS SOME INDICATION SPANISH INTEND TO BALANCE OFF PURCHASE OF MIRAGE F-1'S WITH ADDITIONAL PURCHASE OF F-4E'S. OBVIOUS, NEVERTHELESS, THAT CORRESPONDENT HAD ACCESS TO OR WAS TOLD CONTENT OF LETTER OF OFFER SINCE FACTS ON F-4E PURCHASE BASICALLY CORRECT.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT AND MANNER IN WHICH IT IS BEING REPORTED ABOVE SUGGESTS TWO POSSIBLE SPANISH OBJECTIVES.

A. SPANISH ARE POSSIBLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FACT LETTER OF OFFER HAD BEEN RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH ALREADY EXPIRED, TO PUT POSSIBLE PURCHASE IN PUBLIC DOMAIN AND GAIN MAXIMUM IMPACT IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT DISPUTE WITH MOROCCO OVER CONFIDENTIAL

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NORTH AFRICAN PRESIDIOS. FALL-OUT EFFECT FOR U.S., WHETHER INTENDED OR NOT, WOULD APPEAR TO BE IMAGE OF EVEN HANDEDNESS WEIGHTED THIS TIME ON SIDE OF SPANISH.

B. IF SPANISH INDEED INTEND TO GO THROUGH WITH PURCHASE OF BOTH FRENCH F-1'S AND U.S. F-4'S, IT IS LIKELY COSTS COULD BE PART OF MODERNIZATION PACKAGE IN WHICH THEY HOPE U.S. WOULD PARTICIPATE AS PART OF NEW AGREEMENT. THIS COULD WELL SURFACE IN 4TH ROUND OF

NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THEY HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSS "QUID"ITEMS.
EATON

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